

News from Ed Markey

United States Congress

Massachusetts Seventh District

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CONTACT: ISRAEL KLEIN
(202)-225-2836

NEW ENGLAND DELEGATION CALLS ON FERC FOR FAIR GOVERNANCE OF NORTHEAST RTO

Washington, D. C. – Today Representative Edward J. Markey (D-MA) released a letter, co-signed by the entire New England House delegation, to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Chairman Patrick Wood III urging him to adopt a governance structure for the Northeast Regional Transmission Organization (RTO) that provides New England with equal regional representation. The bipartisan 23 member New England delegation tell FERC Chairman Wood in the letter that they “are opposed to a governance structure that would put the needs of one region ahead of another,” or which would negatively impact New England’s electricity consumers or the region’s “progress in improving energy reliability, capacity and market design.”

“New England ISO has worked hard to provide the region’s consumers with reasonable electricity rates,” said Rep. Markey, who organized the letter. Rep. Markey is a senior Democratic Member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which has jurisdiction over the nation’s wholesale electricity markets and the FERC, which is responsible for regulating these markets.

Rep. Markey explained, “New England should not suffer because of unequal representation on the Northeast RTO board of directors. In this letter, the entire New England delegation is coming together to call on FERC to give New England an equal place at the table.”

RTOs are independent entities designed to operate wholesale electricity transmission systems on a regional level and are a major component of FERC’s attempts to create a competitive wholesale electricity marketplace. Earlier this year, the FERC decided to force a merger of New England’s existing RTO, known as ISO New England, with the New York ISO and the Pennsylvania-New Jersey-Maryland RTO (known as “PJM”). This decision is part of a larger effort to create larger regional electricity markets throughout the nation. FERC is expected to make a decision regarding the structure of the board of the new Northeast RTO sometime some time within the next several weeks. PJM has proposed a “demand-weighted” governance board that would give the mid-Atlantic states 5 seats, New York 3 seats and New England only 2 seats. This is unacceptable to the 23 New England Representatives, who have asked Chairman Wood to consider a governance structure that would provided New England with equal representation on the board of directors. The delegation letter states that “an equally balanced governance structure as the only way in which a single market design can be implemented which would truly benefit the consumers of all of the regions.”

Rep. Markey concluded, "This letter is intended to send a strong message to the FERC that the entire New England Congressional delegation is united on this issue, which is of great importance to our region."

The Markey letter was signed by Representatives Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), Nancy L. Johnson (R-CT), John B. Larson (D-CT), James H. (Jim) Maloney (D-CT), Christopher Shays (R-CT), Rob Simmons (R-CT), Thomas H. Allen (D-ME), John E. Baldacci (D-ME), Michael E. Capuano (D-MA), William D. Delahunt (D-MA), Barney Frank (D-MA), Steven Lynch (D-MA), James P. McGovern (D-MA), Martin T. Meehan (D-MA), Richard E. Neal (D-MA), John W. Olver (D-MA), John F. Tierney (D-MA), Charles F. Bass (R-NH), John E. Sununu (R-NH), Patrick Kennedy (D-RI), Jim Langevin (D-RI), Bernard Sanders (I-VT).

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